

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 1040
February 11, 2003

Minutes

Member Present:

HARTY, Kimm - UGS
KAPPE, Karl - DFFSL
CHRISTY, Kim - SITLA
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill - DWRi
SOWARDS, Glade - Utah Energy Office
CANNING, Michael - DWR
MORTENSEN, Duane - DEQ/DERR
JUSINO, Cesar - USDA - NRCS
KEENE, Mike - State Science Advisor
GEORGESON, Michael - DEQ – Drinking Water
PITKIN, Jay - DEQ - Water Quality
WILLIAMS, Gregory – Division of Water Resources
MILLIS, Eric – Division of Water Resources
HARJA, John - GOPB/DNR
PAYNE, Val – DNR
DANIELS, Ron – UGS

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn - GOPB/DNR
LANDURETH, Brenda - DNR/ADMIN
BEDEL, Mark – GOPB

I. Approval of Minutes

Bill Schlotthauer called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Karl Kappe made a motion to approve the January 14, 2003 minutes. Kimm Harty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Discussion Items

Mark Bedel, Jordan River Natural Areas Forum

Mark Bedel provided a presentation on the Jordan River Natural Areas Forum (JRNAF). He provided two handouts (list of MOU signatories, JRNAF information) and a brief overview of what JRNAF is, why it is important to the state and what role JRNAF plays. Mark first described how JRNA was created. Efforts were initiated in September 2000 when the National Audubon Society Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service created The Jordan River Natural Conservation Corridor Report. The report including information on the natural values of the Jordan river important wildlife habitat, recommended actions that could be taken to maintain and promote natural values of the river and the habitat corridor. JRNAF was established in February 2001 and drafted a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a basis for collaboration to implement the JRNAF mission and plan. JRNAF created bylaws, and mission and goal statements from 2001 through 2003.

JRNAF is not a regulatory body and its role is to share information, coordinate efforts and

provide assistance. Look at the entire river not just segments of it. JRNAF is also a source of information about the river corridor. JRNAF is dedicated to promote awareness, acquisitions, management and restoration of natural areas along the Jordan River, balanced with human resources in the river corridor. The goals are to improve coordination and collaboration to protect, enhance and restore significant acres of riparian habitat for wildlife use and to encourage management of human use areas to complement wildlife. There are 30 partners and numerous participants in JRNAF. The organization has a steering committee and several subcommittees and a forum. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget provides administrative support.

Current Activities

JRNAF provides technical assistance on various development projects, develop a Jordan River Planning tool kit for local government, assist with open space planning and to enhance wildlife habitat projects and develop a river-wide nature education center and trails plan. JRNAF is involved in river hazards planning and to increase membership to assure long-term operation of the organization.

JRNAF is also involved in the following multiple-partner projects, such as: Golf Course Enhancement Study (Utah State University) involves implementing wildlife-friendly golf course enhancements to improve wildlife habitat on Riverbend Golf Course, owned by Salt Lake County, along the Jordan River. This is a low cost cooperative project that will have a significant impact on wildlife habitat. Management alternations to the golf course and other enhancements can improve wildlife habitat. A one-day symposium will be conducted to share this model with other golf courses along the Jordan River and the Provo River.

South Valley Opens Space Project is a study that is contracted by Draper City and Riverton City with BearWest Consultants to develop an open space plan (approximately 400 acres). This is a cooperative effort to look for funding and mechanisms to preserve lands and to design land uses.

Technical Assistance for Developments

Springview Farms is a proposed development on private property in Bluffdale City. Developers asked Bluffdale to enact an ordinance to support a cluster residential development in order to preserve open space approximately 35 to 40 percent will be saved in open space compared to existing ordinance one house per acre. A density bonus may be involved. The developer asked for JRNAF to support the ordinance to preserve open space. Density bonus. Developer is interested in trading open space property to other entities. Bluffdale City is involved in developing open space plan with other cooperators.

JRNAF gives a regional perspective of the river, provides information for potential preservation, restoration and education efforts. JRNAF is an asset for preserving quality of life. This organization is beneficial to the state by using collaboration and coordination to achieve more benefit.

JRNAF is planning a public affairs announcement event on February 24, 2003. Each year,

Scenic America, which is a national nonprofit organization, designates several areas as a Last Chance Landscape. The Jordan River has been selected as a Last Chance Landscape (top 10). Public education and information efforts will continue to get support.

Mark Bedel invited Resource Development Coordinating Committee to participate in JRNAF. NRCC members can assist with coordination and may appoint a representative to attend bi-monthly forum meetings and other subcommittee meetings. RDCC could also help identify funding and other resources and to and help to consider all possible restoration and preservation efforts. A RDCC member could attend these meetings and report back to RDCC.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is March 13, 2003, at the Salt Lake County Taylorsville Recreation Center, located at 27 West 4948 South, Taylorsville. You may contact Mark Bedel at 538-1571 for more information. The website for JRNAF is <http://www.mitigationcommission.gov/wetlands/pdf/wetlands/jornac.pdf>.

Questions

Karl Kappe asked about have any of the incorporated cities and towns along the corridor looked at the question of Good Title to the Land. State Parks has jurisdictional authority to approve developments compatible with other uses and values, since they purchased the title to the Utah Power right-of-way (150 feet on both sides of the river) along the Jordan River and private property owners. They are looking a trading property. The Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands also has property. Developers and other will be looking at what is involved in obtaining clear title to these properties. Karl mentioned that often titles cannot be traced back to a patent. Patent and title concerns need to be settled before developments occur.

Ron Daniels, previous attempts to coordinate for the Jordan River corridor included Jordan River Parkway and Jordan River Sub-basin Watershed Council to better coordinate regulatory issues. Salt Lake County is not a signatory at this time. Several other counties and cities are involved in this effort.

Kim Christy, asked if Transfer Development Rights (TDRs) have been utilized? In the past, funding has been a limited factor. Interest has grown regarding TDR ordinances. Last year, there was a bill (Brent Parker) considered by the state legislature to inform local governments of TDR. The bill did not pass. Municipalities and counties had some concerns that it might be too restrictive. Currently, TDRs can be used without enabling law.

Michael Gorgeson, asked if the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD) have been involved? They have been designing a series of wells along the Jordan River with treatment plants. The JVWCD has been a participating entity, but has not been a formal member of JRNAF. Water Resources and Water Rights have also been attending meetings. Concerns about this proposal have been considered and are in discussion.

Bill Schlotthauer, Division of Water Rights (DWRi) asked if major water right holders on the river are represented? We would like to get other involved in JRNAF activities.

III. Report from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Eric Millis announced that the Division of Water Resources has submitted a 899 for the replacement of a flume on the Bear River Canal Company's west side canal in the Plymouth area. A 404 permit is required and construction is anticipated to begin in March or April of 2003.

Kim Christy, State and Institutional Trust Lands Administration is getting ready for a May sale and is preparing a few leases and right-of-ways.

Ron Daniels, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM), announced that new proposed legislation includes the creation of a task force to examine the impacts of sand and gravel operations around the state and a measure that would involve expanding DOGM's authority for small mining operations by collecting and holding assurances.

Bill Schlotthauer announced that the State Engineer is holding a public meeting, on February 20, 2003, at 2:00 p.m., in County Commission Chambers, Fillmore to discuss and to take comments on the policy revision for Prahvant Valley in southeast Millard County. DWRi has a management plan for this area and it is available on their website. Water levels are dropping and DWRi will need to address new policies due to increasing groundwater withdrawals and possible groundwater mining. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss new appropriations, current conditions, data collections and proposals for policy changes and to accept comments.

DWRi has installed the new computer system. If you have any problems you can email Boyd Clayton at 538-7390. Or if you have any suggestions for improvements.

Castle Cliffs Development on Beaver Dam Wash they are putting together a study to *prove* the resource. This will entail trading out some Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and state lands. They are modifying their proposals to move from along Beaver Dam Wash were it cross the state line up the hill along the old highway. They will be working on studies and environmental requirements.

One of the major obstacles is that there are some Wilderness Study Areas in the exchange proposals. Moving from alluvial aquifers to a bedrock carbonate aquifer raises some concerns on the reasonable use doctrine in Arizona and Nevada. They are looking at the impact on several large springs in Virgin River Gorge. This will need to be considered.

DWRi has lost some of the coop money for the year. Other agencies have stepped up to help fund the stream gage program. Thanks to them DWRi efforts to maintain stream gages will continue.

Val Payne, Department of Natural Resources, Administration announced that planning efforts for the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are continuing and their schedules been accelerated. The USFS is planning for resources they are looking at geographic areas. Manti La Sal is amending their resource management plan and changing the way they are

looking at information. Meetings with county governments will solicit information from these geographic regions to use an integrated approach to forest management. The breakout meeting was yesterday with the Emery County commissioners and the USFS was well received. Meetings will also be held in Moab, Monticello and San Pete.

Glade Sowards, Utah Energy Office (UEO) announced that several new energy bills this year. The Energy Data Collection and Reporting bill H.B. 11 is an attempt to officially designate the UEO as the energy information clearinghouse for the state. We have proposed amendments to create an energy data portal. UEO would offer links to other energy data and information available on line from other departments and divisions of the state. New items may be included each year.

A question was asked about Representative James Gowan's bill on renewable resources (Renewable Energy Amendments H.B. 89). Glade Sowards stated that there may be many compromises. For example, they move from a percentage requirement for renewable energy to a specific number of megawatts of renewable energy to be generated. There are several other concerns from the Utah Mining Association, the Farm Bureau, the rural electric cooperatives and others who have come out against the bill.

IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

No items were discussed. This information is posted on the website.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting will be held on March 11, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Natural Resources, in room 1040.